

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-20 are in the application.

The Examiner objected to the drawing, stating that the reference numerals were not mentioned and that the drawings needed descriptive words. Applicant submits herewith a new drawing containing the terms of each element. Entry of this drawing is respectfully requested. Applicant has also amended the specification to refer to the reference numerals in the drawing.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC §112, stating that the scope of the claims was not enabled by the description. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Regarding the image sequences of page 12, lines 12-17, one possibility of calculating surface points is based on the principle of block matching. Small image segments having image contents that agree with one another are pushed on top of one

another with as much of the same coverage as possible.

If an "image sequence of the skin anomaly" (page 12, line 12) is recorded, the "correlation algorithm" described below can be used:

The sequence of gray values of an individual pixel that are derived from the images taken one after the other in a time sequence serves as the basis for the calculation. The principle of the measurement consists in finding two pixels having gray value progressions that agree with one another as much as possible. The cross-correlation coefficient between the two gray value progressions can be used as a criterion of agreement. The pixels having the maximal cross-correlation coefficient are determined by way of an iterative search process.

With regard to the Examiner's statements concerning the specification page 12, lines 19-28, a possible "conventional method" consists in first comparing the color values of red, green and blue of the border regions of the "light image" and of the "reference image" with the values of the "Ring of Reference Colors" (6). It is presupposed that these skin regions are

healthy. For this purpose, the difference as compared with the values of the "Ring of Reference Colors" (6) is formed for the "light image" and for the "reference image." The offset is obtained by subtracting the difference value of the "reference image" from the difference values of the "light image."

Utilization of an artificial neuronal network can take place in the following manner:

A two-layer or three-layer network is trained with different examples of "different seasonally conditioned degree of tanning." One then obtains the correct color values during the measurement at the output.

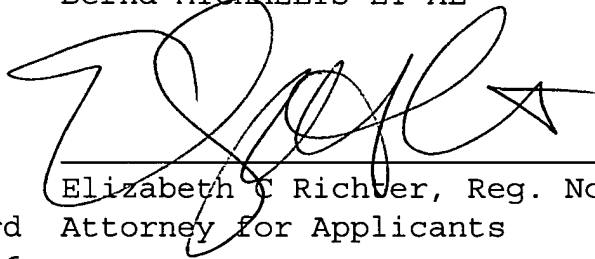
Regarding the Examiner's statements concerning the specification page 13, line 3, the neuronal network can be presented in simplified manner as a multi-layer system. At the beginning, pixels are present. In a first layer, characteristics data appropriately assigned to the image in two dimensions are made available by means of signal generation devices such as filters, for example. These characteristics data are linked in a neuronal network, by means of linked neurons, in a second layer, to produce combinations of characteristics that are still

assigned to layers in two dimensions, in accordance with the image structure. The individual combinations are summed up within the layers (in other words over the image area), thereby resulting in a characteristics vector in a third layer, which vector contains different combinations of characteristics summed up over the image area. This characteristics vector is compared with a reference vector, for the purpose of classification.

All of these features are explained in sufficient detail on pages 12-13 of the specification to provide adequate enablement of the claimed subject matter. One of skill in the art, reading the specification, would be able to determine the algorithms necessary for computing the coordinates and of the methods for performing scaling, as well as the content of the algorithms and process steps as listed on page 13 of the specification.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are in compliance with 35 USC §112. Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: One (1) replacement sheet of drawings, Clean copy of Substitute Specification, Marked-up copy of Substitute Specification, Copy of Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 6, 2008.


Amy Klein